

**From:** Eric And Steff Runquist  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/16/01 10:45pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft continues to steamroll

Microsoft's behavior while the antitrust case is still in progress should give us a little hint of how they will behave in the future. Their new Windows XP combines an Instant Messaging software package into the Operating System in exactly the same way they bundled their Web Browser in the Operating System. That, after all was one of the origins of this case, so many years ago.

If they don't hesitate to pull this kind of stunt while they are under investigation, what will they do after the suit is settled? They've shown their lack of respect for the power of the US government.

Microsoft's new strategy centered around web services and their .NET initiative is merely a higher-level monopoly mechanism. This one floats just above the Operating System, but has the exact same potential to force-out any competitors through hardball leverage techniques.

The fact that Bill Gates is so ready to accept this settlement should set off alarm bells. This man is an extremely tough negotiator and shrewd business man. He knows a honey of a deal when he sees it. He also knows it's for a limited time only, so he will push everybody to get this thing finished before the momentum reverses.

Sincerely,

Eric Runquist  
A concerned citizen.